Historic markers are dedicated

By Tim Wood
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Texas Historic Landmark markers were unveiled at two Weatherford buildings in ceremonies held Sunday.

Markers were unveiled at the Weatherford Post Office and 1934 (old) City Hall.

The Weatherford Post office was built in 1914 after postal facilities had been in several locations, mostly around the Square. It is designed in classical revival style.

A 1965 addition doubled the building's space. Because of careful design and construction, it is difficult to tell the difference between the original post office and the addition.

Willard Thomas, postmaster from 1953 to 1980, gave the dedicatory address. Also speaking was current postmaster Eddie Morrow. Morrow said that relocation of the post office is tentatively planned for 1992, although he said "We would hate to leave this grand old building."

The Parker County Historical Commission has requested that the building be maintained as a postal substation. Government entities also have expressed interest in leasing space in the building when the post office is relocated, according to historical commission officials. In any event, the building will not be destroyed, officials said.

The Weatherford City Hall built in 1934, known as "Old" city hall, was the subject of the second Sunday afternoon dedication ceremony.

Rider Scott, grandson of Fred R. Cotten and general counsel to Gov. Bill Clements, gave the dedicatory address. Cotten was a city commissioner when the building was dedicated in 1934. Scott also is son of Alan and Virginia Cotten Scott of Weatherford.

Scott told of the history of the building, noting that a volunteer fire department chief was primarily responsible for the building. That chief acquired two lots of the present site in 1908 and 1909. The City of Weatherford matched those two lots, making up the present site.

The cornerstone of the first city hall on that site was laid in 1911. However, Scott said, that building was declared unsafe in 1928 and a new building was financed with $7,500 from a bond issue and $7,500 in other city funds. The bond issue, Scott said, passed by a 10-1 margin.

Frances Skiles, chairman of the historical commission, and Mark Kemp, secretary-treasurer, led the ceremonies, with Skiles dedicating the markers at both buildings.

Ronnie Wooten, an architect, was honored for his work in the renovation of the old city hall. In 1986, a new municipal complex opened two blocks west of the old city hall and the police department, fire department and most city functions moved out.

RIDER SCOTT stands by the new historical marker at the old city hall. Scott gave the address at the dedication of the marker Sunday afternoon.

Democrat photo by Tim Wood

A MAILBAG is pulled off of the new historical marker at the Weatherford Post Office Sunday afternoon as Frances Skiles, left, and Willard Thomas, second from left, watch.

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